

Can anyone get the smallpox vaccination?

People with certain health problems should not get the vaccination under normal conditions. Some people may be at-risk of serious illness from the vaccine like:

- People with skin diseases like eczema.
- People who are HIV positive or with AIDS.
- People with organ transplants.
- People receiving cancer treatment.
- Women who are pregnant or breast-feeding and infants under one year old.

How can I learn more about smallpox?

You can call the **Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Public Health Hot Topic** telephone line at 1-866-866-2769, or TTY 1-800-735-2258.

You can also find information at these Web sites:

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

www.dhmh.state.md.us

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/smallpox



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., *Governor*

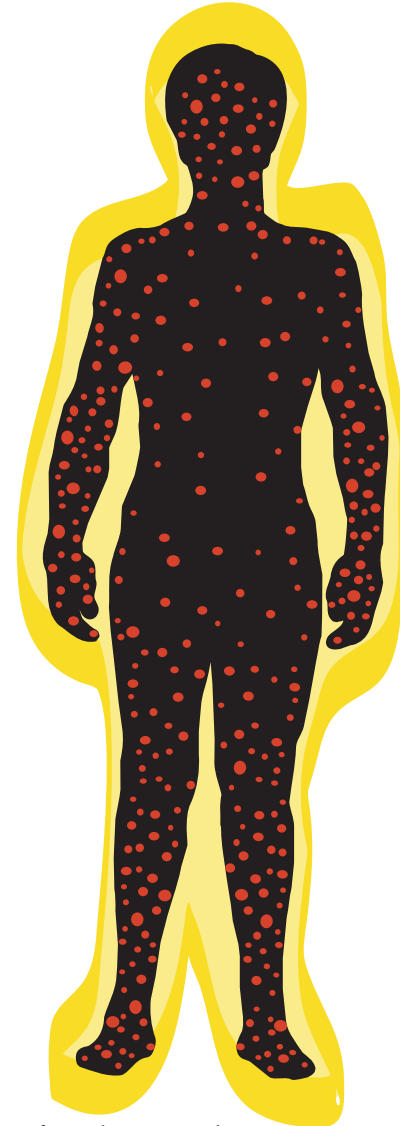
Michael S. Steele, *Lt. Governor*

Nelson J. Sabatini, *Secretary*

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Vacc. Smallpox - English - A



Should I be vaccinated for Smallpox?

Can I get a smallpox vaccination now?

Not at this time. Vaccinations are being given to:

- Members of the armed forces in the event they come in contact with the smallpox virus.
- Members of your local health departments who have been trained to give the vaccine to other people and help if there is a case of smallpox.
- Hospital personnel who treat the first cases of smallpox.

What can I do to protect myself from smallpox?

- Smallpox can be prevented if you act as soon as you think you are exposed. Get the vaccine within one to four days of contact with a person with smallpox to prevent getting the disease.
- Getting the vaccine five to seven days after exposure to the disease may not completely prevent the disease but it will lessen the effects of the illness.
- If smallpox is found within the community, there is vaccine for everyone.
- Careful plans have been made to assure that everyone will get the vaccine in time.

Can I get smallpox from the vaccine?

- The smallpox vaccine does not contain the smallpox virus. The vaccine is made from a different virus called vaccinia, which is related to smallpox.
- Because the vaccine contains a live virus, a person must take care not to spread the vaccine to others.
 - Always keep the vaccination area covered.
 - If you touch the area, immediately wash your hands.
 - Do not touch the area and then touch other people or other parts of your body, like your eyes.
 - Do not go into public places like swimming pools as long as your vaccination is healing.

What are the side effects of a vaccination?

The smallpox vaccination can cause mild side effects. Usually they last a few days to a week. Healthy people may have some of the following signs:

- Soreness around the vaccination area.
- Fever or tiredness.
- Swelling of the lymph nodes (glands).
- Muscle aches and headaches.